

Calderon, Wanda

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:20 AM
To: Mears, Mary
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Messaging on bathing and washing in streams in PR is final....

Did we get this translated – sorry if we missed it thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hbb9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Lead <eocjiclead@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Content <eocjicsms@cdc.gov>; Region2 RRC-InformationOfficer <Region2_RRC-InformationOfficer@epa.gov>; Rini, Sophia <Rini.Sophia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Messaging on bathing and washing in streams in PR is final....

Hi Heather,
The EPA would like to amplify whatever messages the CDC might be issuing related to the reported outbreaks of leptospirosis in Puerto Rico. Are you all issuing anything that we might be able to pick up on?

Mary Mears
Public Affairs Director
U.S. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, the US VI and eight Indian Nations)
(212) 637-3673 (Direct Office)
(212) 637-3660 (General Office)
(646) 369-0077 (Cell)

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 10:56 AM
To: 'Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM)' <hbb9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Lead <eocjiclead@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Content <eocjicsms@cdc.gov>; Region2 RRC-InformationOfficer <Region2_RRC-InformationOfficer@epa.gov>; Rini, Sophia <Rini.Sophia@epa.gov>
Subject: IMPORTANT: Messaging on bathing and washing in streams in PR is final....
Importance: High

Excellent. Thank you, Heather.

Nancy G, we will need to get this translated into Spanish and I will speak to **Sophia** about turning this into a tweet as well, which would also need translation. Should we go through the contract for that?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, many sewage treatment plants, pipes and pumps in Puerto Rico were severely damaged during the recent hurricanes or are not functioning due to loss of power. As of October 3, raw sewage is being released into waterways in Puerto Rico, including some coastal waters, streams and rivers. This situation is expected to continue in some areas until repairs can be made and power is restored. Water contaminated with livestock waste, human sewage, chemicals, and other contaminants can lead to illness when used for drinking, bathing, and other hygiene activities. People should not use the water from rivers, streams and coastal water to drink, bathe, wash, or to cook with unless first boiling this water for a minimum of 1 minute. If boiling the water is not possible, water may be disinfected with bleach. To learn more about making water safe in an emergency, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/making-water-safe.html>

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From: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) [<mailto:hbb9@cdc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 10:04 AM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Lead <eocjiclead@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Content <eocjicsms@cdc.gov>; Region2 RRC-InformationOfficer <Region2_RRC-InformationOfficer@epa.gov>; Rini, Sophia <Rini.Sophia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: additional messaging in English and Spanish, safe water

Yes, please do

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 9:28 AM
To: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM)
Cc: Grantham, Nancy; Mogharabi, Nahal; Kluesner, Dave; CDC IMS JIC Lead; CDC IMS JIC Content; Region2 RRC-InformationOfficer; Rini, Sophia
Subject: RE: additional messaging in English and Spanish, safe water

Hi Heather,
Just re-checking on this. Are these changes OK and can we move forward with the message as edited?
Mary

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 1:21 PM
To: 'Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM)' <hbb9@cdc.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Lead <eocjiclead@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Content <eocjicsms@cdc.gov>; Region2 RRC-InformationOfficer (<Region2_RRC-InformationOfficer@epa.gov> <Region2_RRC-InformationOfficer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: additional messaging in English and Spanish, safe water

This is excellent, thank you.

I do love the PSAs, but I agree the emojis might feel too light for such a serious situation as we have in Puerto Rico. I will consult with my colleagues here on whether we think they might work later in the response when humanitarian concerns are not so huge.

In terms of the wording for the message, let's go with "as of October 3rd," plus I added a sentence to indicate that some of the sewage releases are expected to continue...See below in red.

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From: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) [<mailto:hbb9@cdc.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 12:39 PM

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>

Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Lead <eocjiclead@cdc.gov>; CDC IMS JIC Content <eocjicsms@cdc.gov>

Subject: RE: additional messaging in English and Spanish, safe water

Thanks so much Mary.

See the paragraph you sent below with edits incorporated from our environmental health specialists. The only caveat we would add is that since this statement is both a public notification of contamination and general guidance on avoiding contaminated waterways, we would defer to you on how you want to phrase the timing of the contamination (i.e. "as of 10/02, raw sewage is being released" vs. "raw sewage was released"), depending on what kind of shelf-life you anticipate this statement will have.

We also are attaching three of the PSAs we developed for teenagers in Texas to keep them from playing in the flood water. They may be insensitive for the PR audience because of the emoji's. But again, we were trying to target the teenagers we saw on the news swimming in flood waters.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, many sewage treatment plants, pipes and pumps in Puerto Rico were severely damaged during the recent hurricanes or are not functioning due to loss of power. As of **October 3**, raw sewage is being released into waterways in Puerto Rico, including some coastal waters, streams and rivers. **This situation is expected to continue in some areas until repairs can be made and power is restored.** Water contaminated with livestock waste, human sewage, chemicals, and other contaminants can lead to illness when used for drinking, bathing, and other hygiene activities. People should not use the water from rivers, streams and coastal water to drink, bathe, wash, or to cook with unless first boiling this water for a minimum of 1 minute. If boiling the water is not possible, water may be disinfected with bleach. To learn more about making water safe in an emergency, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/making-water-safe.html>

Thank you for the great collaboration on this and many other things.
heather

From: Mears, Mary [<mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 8:15 AM

To: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hbb9@cdc.gov>

Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: additional messaging in English and Spanish, safe water

Hi Heather,

The materials you sent us yesterday are super helpful and I thank you for sending them all. We will definitely reinforce these messages.

There is one issue somewhat unique to the situation in Puerto Rico that I think we might need to hone in on a bit more specifically. The messages and information refer to flood waters and also give great advice on how to make water safer to drink. While those issues are key, one of the bigger concerns that EPA has is people bathing and washing in streams, rivers or coastal waters where there are likely continuing discharges of raw sewage from damaged plants and pipes and plants or pumps without power. I am no health expert, and I certainly defer to you and your colleagues at CDC, but I was wondering if we could add a point somewhere that would be something like:

Because many sewage treatment plants, pipes and pumps in Puerto Rico were severely damaged or are not functioning due to loss of power, raw sewage is being released into some waterways in Puerto Rico, including some coastal waters, streams and rivers, such as the Rio Grande de Luiza. People should not use the water from rivers, streams and coastal water to bathe, wash, or to cook with or to drink without first boiling this water for a minimum of _____. [health experts would have to bless this, as I am not an expert]? Skin contact with or accidental ingestion of water containing raw sewage is dangerous. Raw sewage contains bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause serious and sometimes fatal illnesses.

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From: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) [<mailto:hbb9@cdc.gov>]

Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 4:54 PM

To: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; Elleen Kane <elleen.kane@hhs.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Covington, Tayler <covington.tayler@epa.gov>; Seppi, Pat <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>; Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>; Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>; R2NY-ConfLine-PAD.866-299-3188/Conference-Line/R2-NY <R2NY-ConfLine-PAD.866-299-3188@epa.gov>

Subject: additional messaging in English and Spanish, safe water

Sorry for the delay in getting these out to you. Here are some additional messaging in Spanish or English.

Most of these items can be found at our hurricane webpages:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.html>

Sincerely, Heather

Fact Sheets:

Drink Safe Water, Make Water Safe, and Wash Your Hands -
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/factsheets.html>

[Beba agua que sea segura](#)

[Cómo desinfectar el agua](#)
<https://www.cdc.gov/es/disasters/hurricanes/pdf/foodwater.pdf>

More info:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/facts.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/handhygiene.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/es/disasters/hurricanes/hurricane_maria.html